

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US02/25105

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A63F 13/00

US CL : 463/25

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : A63F 13/00

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X, P --- Y	US 6,379,247 B1 (WALKER et al.) 30 April 2002 (30.04.2002), See The Entire Document, especially Figs 10a-12, Cols 8 & 12	1-3, 5-17, 19-22, 24-27, 29-35
Y	US 6,142,876 A (CUMBERS) 07 November 2000 (7.11.2000), See The Abstract, Fig 2	4, 18, 23, 28, 36-57 4, 18, 36-41, 42-57
Y	US 5,761,647 A (BOUSHY) 02 June 1998 (02.06.1998), See Fig 1	23
Y	US 6,048,269 A (BURNS et al.) 11 April 2000 (11.04.2000), See Fig 1	42, 43, 54, 56, 57
Y	US 5,816,918 A (KELLY et al.) 06 October 1998 (06.10.1998), See Fig 6	47
A	US 6,161,743 A (SHOEMAKER, JR.) 19 December 2000 (19.12.2000) See The Entire Document	1-57
A, P	US 6,280,326 B1 (SAUNDERS) 28 August 2001 (28.08.2001), See The Abstract, Fig 1, Fig 7	42, 43, 54, 56, 57
A, P	US 6,394,907 B1 (ROWE) 28 May 2002 (28.05.2002), See The Entire Document.	42, 43, 54, 56, 57

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☐ See patent family annex.

Special categories of cited documents:	
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search

12 September 2002 (12.09.2002)

Date of mailing of the international search report

18 OCT 2002

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PCT
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For
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Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 1 of first sheet)

This international report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claim Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claim Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claim Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
Please See Continuation Sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.: 1-57

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.



No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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BOX II. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING

I. Claims 1-57, drawn to method of awarding loyalty points

II. Claims 58-85, drawn to a device and method for processing loyalty validation requests

III. Claims 86-97, drawn to game machine

IV. Claims 98-103, drawn to a loyalty points network

V. Claims 104-176, drawn to gaming machines with no touch interface

VI. Claims 177- 190, drawn to wireless communications system

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be examined, the appropriate additional examination fees must be paid.

The inventions listed as Groups I-VI do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

Group I is drawn to a method for awarding loyalty points. The special technical feature is that the player tracking points are awarded without the patron initiating a player tracking session.

Group II is drawn to a method and device for processing loyalty validation requests. The special technical feature is validating a loyalty program instrument.

Group III is drawn to a gaming machine designed to control award loyalty points without receiving identification from a player and store the loyalty points on a loyalty program instrument. The special technical features are awarding loyalty points without receiving identification from a player and storing the loyalty points on a loyalty program instrument.

Group IV is drawn to a loyalty point network. The special technical features are loyalty point generation sites, loyalty point instrument validation sites, and loyalty program transaction servers.

Group V is drawn to a gaming machine with no contact input device for reading loyalty point instruments. The special technical features are the no contact input device and loyalty point instruments.

Group VI is drawn to a system for communication with wireless gaming devices. The special technical feature is the wireless gaming device.

Groups I-VI are drawn to separate inventions. They do not share a special technical feature that is not well known to the art. Therefore, the inventions set forth in Groups I-VI lack unity of invention.

Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:

Internet: Green Stamps

East: Green adj Stamps, casino & loyalty & anonymous, loyalty & anonymous & award, slot adj machine & comps